

REMARKS

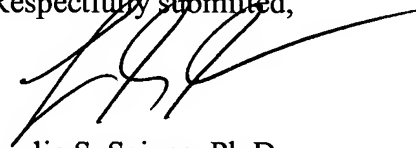
Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims of the present application, as amended herein, are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge, with thanks, the Examiner's statement that Claims 11-17 are allowable. The remaining claim, i.e., Claim 18, has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly unpatentable over the combined disclosures of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0063292 to Armstrong, et al., Japanese Patent No. 01076755 and U.S. Patent No. 6,483,171 to Forbes, et al.

In order to advance prosecution of the above identified patent application, applicants have cancelled Claim 18 without prejudice in this response. The cancellation of Claim 18 makes the obviousness rejection moot; therefore reconsideration and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Thus, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is firmly believed that the present case is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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